



1997 Survey of Con Comm's, Planning Boards and Master Plans

Priority Needs:

- Complete an NRI
- Information about the landscape
- Technical Assistance to get it done

Complete an NRI
Information about the landscape
Technical Assistance to get it done

NH RSA 36-A:2 Conservation Commissions.

- the proper use and protection of natural resources
- research local land and water resources
- coordinate activity of unofficial bodies - develop and distribute publications and maps
- keep an index of open space and natural, aesthetic or ecological areas
- may recommend to Selectmen a program for the protection, development or better utilization of such areas

Creating and Using the Municipal Natural Resources Inventory

Southwest Region Planning Commission
Natural Resources Advisory Committee
Regional Environmental Planning Program
Municipal Membership Dues & NH DES

NH Association of Conservation Commissions
Cheshire County Conservation District
Hillsborough County Conservation District

Creating and Using the Municipal Natural Resources Inventory

SWRPC NHACC CCCD NH DES

A G E N D A

- NRI's in Municipal Planning**
- Creating the NRI**
- Information Workshop**
- Next Steps**

NRI's in Municipal Planning

Why's and Wherefore's of the NRI

Make a Plan to get it done

Elements of a "standard" approach

Regional Conservation Priorities



CHANGE

Life Cycles, Seasons, Climate between Years, Ecological Succession, Forest Fires, Floods, and Evolution

Outside natural rates and extents

Disrupt the natural movement and distribution of energy, climate between years, Ecological Succession, Forest Fires, Floods, and Evolution

For many the impact of natural forces are not well understood
And many see this as a threat to nature, nature as amenity

- Permanent Physical Displacement
- Direct Ephemeral Displacement or Disruption
- Indirect Disruption



page 1 of 2

Statistics of Loss and Imperilment
14,000 acres/year developed
Rare, threatened or endangered:
* 289 plant species
* 34 animal species
* 25 plant communities
Species of concern:
* 41 birds
* 11 mammals
* 11 invertebrates

page 1 of 2

Statistics of Loss and Imperilment
NH Comparative Risk Project, 1997
* 55 advisors in natural science, public health, technology and public policy
* Identified and Ranked 53 environmental problems that pose a risk to our welfare
* 5 of the top 10 are based directly in loss of land and water habitat

More Easily Recognized Effects

- Community Character: Loss of the working rural community with the conversion of farm & forest land
- Loss of Regional Food Production Potential
- Regional and Micro-Climate Disruption
- Loss in Quality of Outdoor Recreation
- Imperilment and Loss of Clean Water Supply
- Public & Private Expense of Remediation

Environmental Planning MUST be part of Community Planning

Change happens ... land conservation can accomplish a great deal for conservation, but conservation must also be part of other land use decisions and planning.

The NRI can help towns bring environmental criteria into development policies and land use decisions.

Make a Plan to get it done

So, what do we do?

- Establish Purpose and Need
- Define Your Approach ↔ Evaluate Resources
- Commit to a Work Plan
- Implement Work Plan

Define the Purpose

No Single Right Answer -

- Describe the Natural Environment
- Recommend Priorities for Land Conservation
- Enhance the Master Plan
- Refine Zoning and Site Standards
- Public Education about Nature
- A Municipal Conservation Plan

Define Your Approach

- Field Research
- Target Properties
- In-House or Consultant
- Public Involvement

Define Your Approach

Be Inclusive



Conservation Commissions: Local Government and Grassroots Organizations

Strategic Planning

Organizational Review

Mission and Purpose
Action Plan
Monitoring System

Make Time to Plan and Commit the Process to Writing



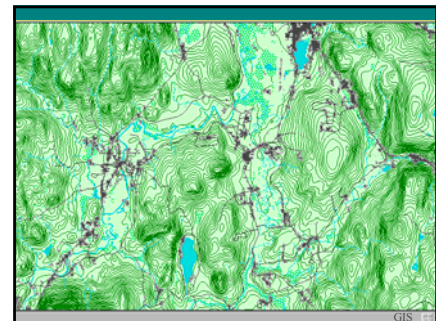
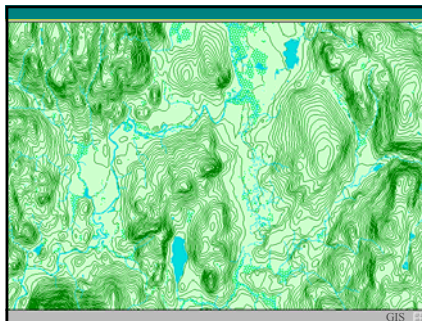
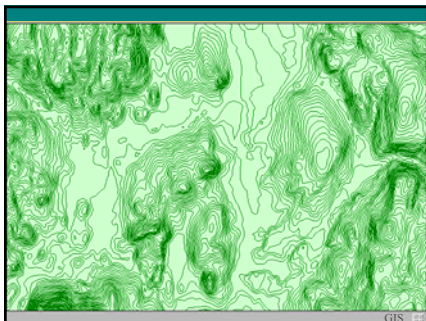
Elements of a "standard" approach

- Describe the Existing Landscape
- Analysis of Findings
- Add the Social Dimension
- Communication



Describe the Existing Landscape

- Landforms: *Geomorphology, Topography*
- Presence and Movement of Water
- Land Cover: *Natural and Man-Made*
- Plants and Animals: *Algae - Mammals*



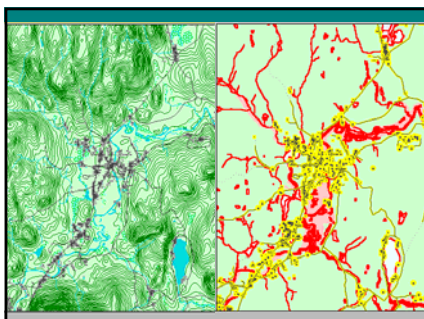
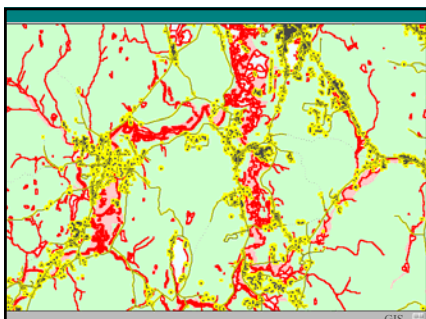
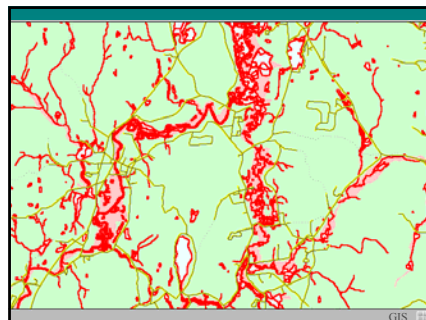
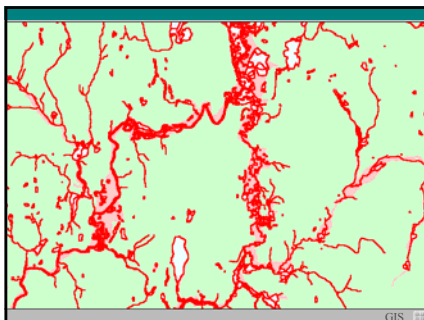
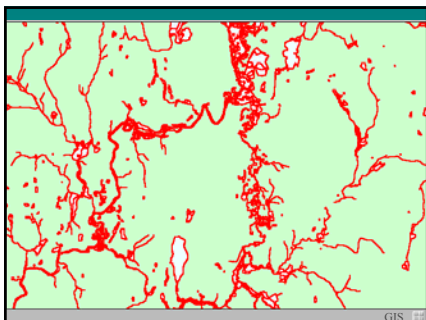
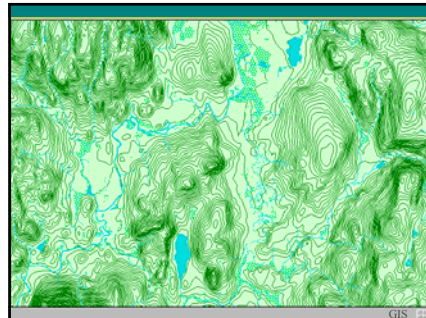
Analysis

Analysis

Isolate resources, name the parts and begin to better define the extent and qualities of the resources - how much, where and what threatens them.

Give meaning to the values and relationships

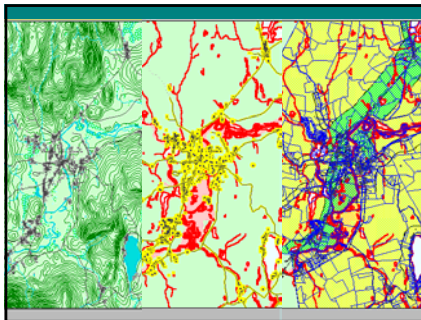
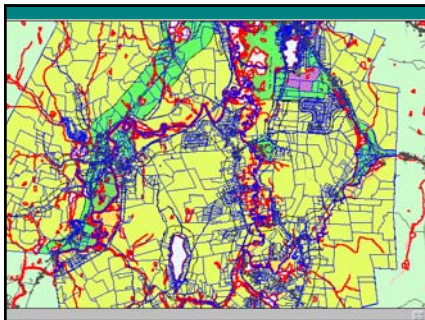
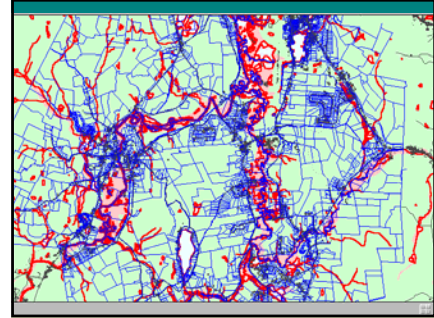
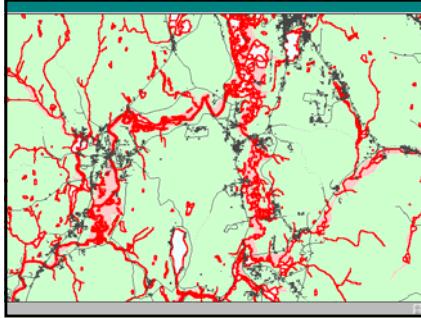
Example: surface water, the habitats it defines, encroachment on those habitats and barriers to the movement of water.



Add the Social Dimension

Add the Social Dimension

Property ownership
Land use regulation
Community plans
Environmental regulation



Communication

Provide an analysis of what your findings may indicate for government and private life.

Connect community goals with the findings and recommendations of the NRI.

protect water supply
protect public health
protect ecological integrity
protect rural community / working landscape
ensure suitability of proposed land use

Communication **WARNING**

Possible point of conflict between conservation planning and mainstream community development:

Conservation planning, ecologically-based view of the landscape necessarily implies that there are limits to expansion and change.

... a notion that is not fully embraced by many.

Regionally Significant Resources

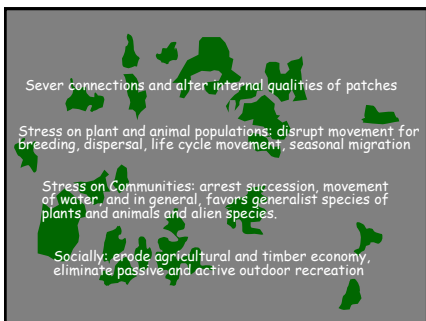
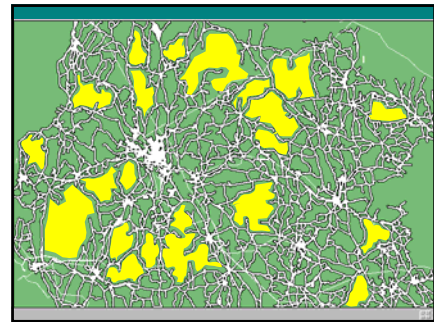
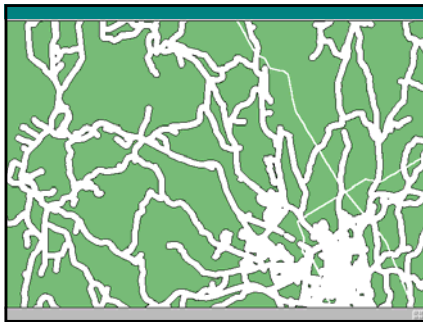
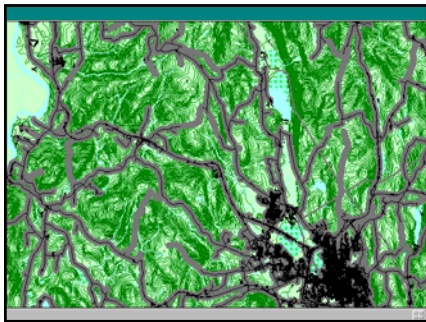
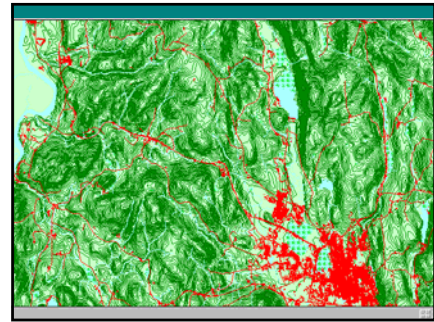
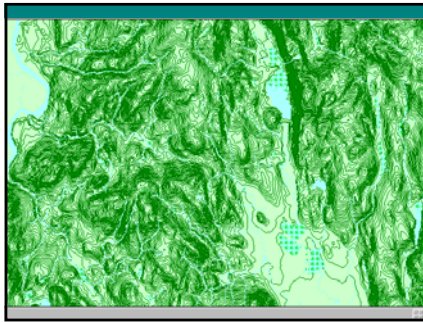
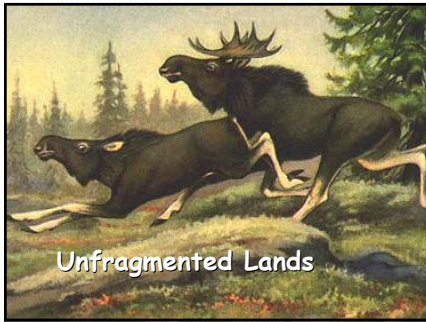
Water Resources

Surface Water & Wetlands
Stratified Drift Aquifers

Productive Agricultural and Forestry Soils

Sensitive Habitats

Unfragmented Lands



Environmental Planning **MUST**
be part of Community Planning

The NRI brings
environmental criteria
into development policy
and land use decisions.

Creating and Using the Municipal
Natural Resources Inventory

SWRPC NHACC CCCD NH DES

A G E N D A

NRIs in Municipal Planning
Creating the NRI
Information Workshop
Next Steps

Creating and Using the Municipal
Natural Resources Inventory

**GO
BASIC**

Let's take 10 minutes